

17th June 2021

Dear parents and carers

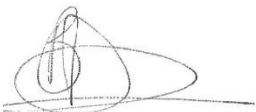
We have had a number of queries and questions regarding the cancellation of our Year 11 and Year 13 Proms. I wanted to assure you that we understand how important these events are for our young people, especially after the disruption they have experienced over the last two years. Up until a few weeks ago, we were confident the events would be able to go ahead as planned, but the increasing prevalence of the Delta Variant has meant that a relaxation of restrictions has been delayed.

We have considered a number of options:

- Re-booking venues for the week commencing 19th July. We have enquired with venues as to their availability assuming that restrictions are eased from this date. The major stumbling block to this being a feasible option, is that we would be unable to ensure the students stay in consistent groups, meaning that any positive cases of COVID would likely lead to everyone attending the event having to self-isolate. This could lead to the school having to close due to insufficient staffing. This would be coupled with students and staff having to cancel holiday plans as the period of self-isolation would extend up to the end of July. Cases are rising locally as well as nationally, so this risk has been deemed too great by the school.
- Host an outdoor prom on St Peter's Southbourne site. This was something we had consulted students on prior to the Summer Term, very few students were open to this suggestion so it was not deemed to be a feasible option. It would also be incompatible with the system of controls which we are obliged to have in place at our setting.

In spite of this we are still looking forward to our GCSE and A Level Certificate Evenings in the Autumn Term subject to any restrictions that may be in place. We are keen to make these even more celebratory than in previous years. Please accept our sincere apologies once again, I would like to thank you for all the support you have given us over the last couple of years. Your children are a credit to you and have shown great resilience in difficult circumstances.

Yours sincerely



Ben Doyle
Headteacher

Becoming the best we can be